

**General Topics :: "Prophetic Untimeliness: A Challenge to the Idol of Relevance" by OS Guinness**

"Prophetic Untimeliness: A Challenge to the Idol of Relevance" by OS Guinness - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2004/5/2

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5 out of 5 stars.

In this refreshingly insightful book, Guinness exposes how the Church has bowed to the idol of relevance and its relationship to time (trendiness). The Church is too busy trying to keep up, constantly conforming itself to what the world says it needs to in order to be relevant. Too much is given to being fresh, new, up-to-date, attuned, appealing, seeker-sensitive, audience-friendly (p. 76) The Church is too often looking to become "future-savvy", producing futurism, which is a quack-science that picks up current trends, and projects them into the future, and then pretends the results are predictions (p. 77) Leaders who have such a mind set ought to be called down as false prophets.

In having such a mentality, the Church actually becomes irrelevant. Guinness teaches us the only way the Church can actually be relevant is through being faithful to the gospel, for "in itself the good news of Jesus is utterly relevant or it is not the good news it claims to be." (p. 13) Guinness calls the Church to stop being "obsessed with the new" (p. 77) and rather to learn from the past, and most importantly, the eternal.